

## Preface

This report is the fifth in the series Engineer Historical Studies. The series provides primary source materials that shed significant light on the history of the Army Corps of Engineers. More than that, the materials are part of our nation's history, because they suggest the diverse ways in which the Corps has contributed to national development.

The reports of 19th century Army engineers reflect a commitment to scientific research and analysis. Like several other reports—some of which have been published in the present series—the 1873 study of the San Joaquin, Tulare, and Sacramento valleys of California offers insights into the Corps' role in western expansion. I hope readers will gain useful insights into the relationship between technology and politics and between the federal government and the states. Comprehending such relationships is essential to understanding natural resource development in a democratic system.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. J. Hatch', with a stylized, flowing script.

H. J. HATCH  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Commanding